SWATHS OF GLORY

Featured Characters:

Finn
Jake

Cy & Festus, the centaurs

Graywhack, the outlaw conjurer
Graywhack's Fire Demons

The Glorriors:
Snake-Man, a fighter
Odile, a Cyclops archer
Rhin-o-taur, a barbarian

The Manticore
The Terrorbull

Finn's Motivation:
Tempted with an idealized life of wandering and battling, Finn struggles to keep his sense of responsibility.

The Adventure:

ACT I

* Finn and Jake roast marshmallows enjoying a peaceful twilight in the desert. Finn likes his marshmallows charred and flaming but Jake prefers slow cooking them. They see a strange dust cloud in the distance. Finn gives it a look with his binoculars; it's a centaur stagecoach being attacked by a band of fire demons!

* Finn leaps on Jake's back and they're off. The fire demons have been conjured by Graywhack, a ruthless outlaw mage. Finn and Jake battle with all their vigor but are pinned down by the fire demons' flame weapons and Graywhack's exploding runestones.

* The fire demons rush in to finish them off. Just then, an arrow comes hurtling out of the sky and deflects a sword swinging towards Finn. Three riders mounted on dinosaurs appear on the cliff. They storm down the hillside towards the embattled stagecoach. It's the Glorriors! Three really badass fighters known for their unmatched daring and undeniable coolness.

* The archer's arrows intercept the fire bullets mid-flight, the barbarian smashes the fire demons into the ground and Snake-Man, the fighter, duels Graywhack. They make short work of extinguishing the fire demons. But Graywhack escapes, shouting curses over his shoulder.

* Graywhack was trying to steal the daily gold shipment that the stagecoach carries. As the Glorriors are collecting the thanks of Cy and Festus, the Centaur drivers, Finn feels slighted. He's mortified that he's been shown up by the Glorriors! Jake keeps telling him to just calm down. "I don't understand why you're getting so upset." "You don't understand because YOU'RE not really a hero." Jake is flabbergasted at Finn's statement. Finn immediately regrets his harsh words, but unwilling to show his embarrassment, he keeps up a front by stomping off to join the Glorriors, a band of "real" heroes.

* When Finn catches up with The Glorriors, they are battling the dreaded Manticore. The monster has three

rows of teeth and spears at the tip of it's tail. Finn throws himself into the fight and together they subdue the creature in daring fashion. The Glorriors are impressed by Finn's tenacity. Finn relishes this chance to completely cut loose. Hurrah! Finn joins them in a roar of triumph.

ACT II

*Jake is at a loss what to do without Finn. He follows a weird-looking bug on a whim. It leads him all the way back to town where the stagecoach is getting ready to leave on its next run. Cy and Festus, the centaurs, are having a heated exchange. Festus quits for fear of Graywhack's raids. Jake volunteers to ride shotgun on the next run. He stretches to look sort of like a centaur.

* Finn gets to know the warriors as they sharpen their weapons by the fire and feast on skewered Manticore. They were proper knights, once, but got bored with all the boring duty; they vowed to spend the rest of their days having high adventures. The Glorriors are tracking the Terrorbull, a creature who terrorizes the locals, in the petrified forest. The archer hands Finn a small bow and invite him to join their hunt.

* At another campfire, Graywhack fumes over his defeat. He traces some symbols in the sand and says a few incantations over the fire. The flames knot together into twisted, menacing shapes that leap from the fire and begin growing.

* At dawn, the Glorriors gear up for their Terrorbull hunt while Jake harnesses himself to the centaur stagecoach. Jake and Cy hit the road. Finn is taking target practice with his new bow. Just then, Graywhack and his gang thunder past the Glorriors. He's conjured up some even fiercer-looking demons and they're headed towards the stagecoach trail.

* "Shouldn't we chase those guys?" Finn asks. The Glorriors aren't interested, they seek out only bigger and newer challenges.
"No, we fought those guys yesterday." The Glorriors would much rather hunt the Terrorbull. This idea of ignoring obvious evildoers in favor of glory seeking doesn't quite sit right with Finn. Before he can object, the Terrorbull comes crashing through the petrified trees.

* Back at the trail, Graywhack's gang quickly gain ground on the centaur stagecoach. Graywhack's runestones explode around them like mortar shells. The fire demons' flame bullets whizz past them. The wheels explode in flame. The disabled stagecoach slides to a stop as the bandits close in on Jake and Cy.

ACT III

* The Glorriors are having a grand time fighting the Terrorbull. The beast charges again and again, flipping etrified logs at them with his glowing horns and slavering acid. Axes swoosh and arrows fly. The Glorriors all grab ahold of its horns and dig in their heels, laughing gregariously. Finn punches at its swishy tail half-heartedly.

* It's no good, though; Finn can't turn a blind eye to people in trouble! Finn ditches the Glorriors and tears off after Graywhack.

* The fire demons have encircled the stagecoach, bombarding it with fire bullets. Cy is pinned under the wreck. Jake takes on the bandits but they're too hot to touch. Graywhack lassoes Jake's extended limbs and he's staked down by the bandits.

* Finn arrives just as they're about to burn Jake to cinders. Finn is outnumbered and outgunned 5-to-1 but, seeing Graywhack's exploding runestones, he devises a plan. Finn sprints to Jake's defense. He challenges Graywhack to a showdown. Finn readies an arrow and Graywhack reaches for his runestones. They DRAW!

* Finn ducks the runestone, but is sent sprawling by the explosion. Graywhack looks down at an arrow sticking out of his pouch of runestones. The runestones tumble out of the ripped bag, rolling straight for the demons. Quickly, Finn fires an arrow that slices through Jake's bonds. The beads contact the fire demons and ignite. A huge magical explosion lights up the desert. The fire demons are snuffed out by its concussive force.

* Jake is stretched around Finn as a blast shield. Finn apologizes for being such a butt. Singed and battered, Graywhack struggles to his feet, refusing to be defeated. He begins to utter another spell. Jake knocks him out with a gold brick.

*The Glorriors arrive on the scene, riding the tamed Terrorbull. Cy the Centaur thanks them for nothing. They once more invite Finn to join them in a life of constant, carefree adventure. He wishes them well, but insists he's still got a lot to learn from Jake. Finn & Jake watch them ride off into the sunset.

THE END

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Network notes Oct 28, 08

Swaths of Glory

There's a lot of great action/adventure here and some strong character moments. There are just a few story beats that feel like they might need some clarification:

We're missing an opportunity, when the Glorriors hand Finn the bow and invite him to join the hunt, to escalate the story. He's already come along with them, so this moment should signify them truly accepting Finn as one of their group (while further enamoring Finn with them). Can this be a bigger moment and can Finn do something that earns the Glorrior's respect and prompts them giving him the bow and hunt invitation?

Finn realizing that ignoring evildoers in favor of glory seeking is a great character moment. Can this also be tied into a realization (later when he breaks off from the Glorriors to do the right thing or at the end) that not only was he wrong to blow up at Jake, but that Jake was on the right path (heroing just for the good of it and not worried about the glory) all along?